

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 MC-02 EB-11 COME-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 AID-20 IGA-02 EUR-25 H-03 L-03

DRC-01 /098 W

----- 008456

R 220623Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6796

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

DISTR ENGR RIYADH//SANG PM//

USMTM DHAHRAN

DA WASHDC//AMC//

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 2085

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA

SUBJECT: SANG COMMUNICATIONS

REF: STATE 69262; STATE 79908

1. SAUDI ARABIAN NATIONAL GUARD COMMUNICATIONS, BOTH NATIONAL COMMAND AND CONTROL NET AND UNIT TACTICAL NETS, ARE TOTALLY INADEQUATE TO CURRENT REQUIREMENTS. IMPROVEMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS THROUGHOUT THE SANG IS ONE OF THE PRIORITY PROGRAMS SPECIFIED IN THE 19 MARCH 73 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO RECEIVE INITIAL EMPHASIS ALONG WITH THE MECHANIZATION PROGRAM. THE US ARMY PROGRAM MANAGER SURVEYED THE SANG COMMUNICATIONS IN JULY/AUGUST 1973 AND PREPARED A COMMUNICATIONS MODERNIZATION SUPPLEMENT TO THE USG PROPOSAL THAT WAS PRESENTED ON 13 DECEMBER 1973. THIS COMMUNICATIONS SUPPLEMENT WAS PRESENTED TO THE SANG ON 16 FEBRUARY 1974.

2. PARALLEL TO THE USG EFFORTS, THE BRITISH MILITARY TRAINING MISSION (BMTM) TO THE SANG HAS BEEN WORKING FOR SEVERAL YEARS
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ON A PLAN TO MODERNIZE SANG COMMUNICATIONS. ONE OF THE

FULL TIME ADVISORS IN RIYADH IS A UK ARMY ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICER. ABOUT THE SAME TIME THE US ARMY PROGRAM MANAGER WAS SUBMITTING HIS PROPOSAL, THE BRITISH WERE FINALIZING THEIRS. ON 9 MARCH 1974, PRINCE ABDULLA, THE SANG COMMANDER, SENT A LETTER TO THE US AMBASSADOR INVITING THE USG TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL FOR MODERNIZING SANG COMMUNICATIONS. AS AN INCLOSURE TO THE LETTER WAS AN OUTLINE OF THE SPECIFICATIONS DESIRED, OBVIOUSLY BASED ON THE BMTM PLAN.

3. AS THIS REQUIREMENT IS FULLY COVERED BY THE 19 MARCH 73 MOU, AND AS THE PROGRAM MANAGER HAS ALREADY PREPARED AND SUBMITTED ONE PROPOSAL, THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED TO PRINCE ABDULLA WITH A LETTER STATING THAT ACTION ON THIS REQUIREMENT HAD BEEN PASSED TO THE US ARMY PROGRAM MANAGER WHO WOULD QUOTE: TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO STUDY IT IN DETAIL AND TO PREPARE A PROPOSAL BEST SUITED TO YOUR REQUIREMENTS AND WHICH TAKES INTO CONSIDERATION PREVIOUS ATTENTION THAT WE HAVE GIVEN THE COMMUNICATION NEEDS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD. UNQUOTE.

4. REF PARA 2 REFTTEL, THE SANG HAS A LEGITIMATE REQUIREMENT FOR AN INDEPENDENT COMMAND AND CONTROL NET, AND DESPERATELY NEEDS TACTICAL UNIT COMMUNICATIONS. THE EXISTING NATIONAL NET IS OBSOLETE AND DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN AND SHOULD BE REPLACED BY MODERN EQUIPMENT. THE SYSTEM ALREADY EXISTS, HOWEVER, SO IT IS NOT A MATTER OF DUPLICATION AND IT OBVIOUSLY HAS FULL SAG APPROVAL.

5. C.L. REGISTER, VP OF SANDERS ASSOCIATES SENT AMBASSADOR A COMMERCIAL TELEGRAM 17 APR REQUESTING ADDITIONAL DETAILS. RECOMMEND STATE INFORM SANDERS OF ABOVE AND DIRECT THEM TO CONTACT USA PROGRAM MANAGER FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS. FYI COLLINS RADIO INTERNATIONAL IS ALSO SHOWING AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: IS SANDERS REPUTABLE? HOW LARGE? WHAT IS ITS EXPERIENCE? COULD IT HANDLE PROGRAM IT REFERS TO? WE WOULD NOT WISH TO ENDORSE ANY AMERICAN FIRM, EVEN IF IT WERE ONLY AMERICAN INVOLVED IN COMPETITION, CONFIDENTIAL

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IF IT WERE NOT RELIABLE AND CAPABLE OF HANDLING THE CONTRACT.
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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 22 APR 1974
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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